

# CITIZENS ON WATCH

Volume 1, Issue 8

March 2013

## Police apprehend local vehicle burglars!

Officers were notified of a possible vehicle burglary in progress in a business area. Patrol officers, along with K-9's, responded to the location. Arriving on scene within seconds of the call, Officers apprehended two suspects (Male and Female) hiding in their vehicle next to the victims truck. Upon visual inspection of the suspect vehicle, the Victim identified their property inside the suspect vehicle. Additionally, a handgun was found lying on the driver seat where the male suspect was and burglary tools identified inside as well. The Suspect vehicle was towed and the investigation which is ongoing at this time.

### Police Participate in 2013 Homeless count

The Goodyear Police Department participated in the 2013 Homeless Street Count on Wednesday, January 30, 2013 from the hours of 5 a.m. to 9 a.m. This HUD mandated point-in-time survey of homeless individuals will provide valuable data regarding the number and characteristics of people living on the streets in Maricopa County. This count is critical in assisting the city in acquiring funding for the valley, justify the need for additional housing and services, confirming the widespread nature of homelessness, and developing strategies to end homelessness throughout the valley.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Spring Training Month of March

HEALTH AND WELLNESS APRIL 6

AT THE GOODYEAR BALLPARK

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1. Police Apprehend Vehicle Burglars
- 2. Homeless Count Completed
- 3. School Substations Expanded
- 4. Driver Arrested 2<sup>nd</sup> Time
- 5. Deadly Phone Calls

### **School Substation Program Expands**

Goodyear Police Department in partnership with three separate elementary school districts in Goodyear have adopted an innovative approach to Community Policing. Recently, a new police substation pilot program was established at Mabel Padgett Elementary School in an effort to increase police presence and visibility on the school campus. "The idea of having a police substation at an elementary school has received such rave reviews that we have decided to expand the program. Due to positive feedback from schools, parents and the community, we have expanded our program to include two more elementary schools in Goodyear; Westar Elementary and Centerra Mirage School. " said Police Chief Jerry Geier. "Officers use the three school substations, which are located in the north, central and south geographical areas of the city, to make calls and write reports during their shift.

"We are fortunate to have incredible relationships between our district and city agencies. Chief Geier and his entire team are a resource for our families and communities. Being able to establish a substation at one of our sites further strengthens those connections. Promoting visibility in our neighborhoods provides another layer of support. We look forward to building upon the relationships already established," said Avondale School District Superintendent, Dr. Betsy Hargrove.

"We are extremely appreciative of the partnership with Goodyear Police Department. They have consistently worked to maximize the safety and security of our schools. Having a substation at Westar Elementary is another example of the proactive partnership between our school district and the city. Goodyear Police and Fire Departments have a long history of support for our schools," stated Dr. Andrew Rogers, Liberty Elementary School District Superintendent.

According to Chief Geier, "we hope this program will serve as a model for increased school security nationwide."

## Goodyear Police Arrest Driver from I-10 Pursuit Chase

Police arrest 35 year old Joshua Bloom of Litchfield Park recently. Bloom, who had been arrested the week prior, made headlines for leading police on a pursuit while on the phone with local media; he was also interviewed last week from jail. A Goodyear Police Officer, who was making a routine visit to the Goodyear Police Substation at Mabel Padgett Elementary School, recognized Bloom from his previous media exposure and witnessed him drive away from the school. Remembering that he had a revoked license due to last week's incident, pulled Bloom over and arrested him for driving on a suspended/revoked license. Bloom was booked into MCSO jail

## **Call Could Kill You!**

Don't answer...that call could kill you! Did you know that in 2010, 9% of all fatal motor vehicle crashes and 18% of injury crashes were due to distracted driving? Of those crashes, 13% were directly related to cell phone use! The largest group of distracted drivers is those under the age of 20.

Distracted driving is defined as, "any activity that could divert a person's attention away from the primary task of driving. *All* distractions endanger driver, passenger, and bystander safety. These types of distractions include:

- Texting
- Using a cell phone or Smartphone
- Eating and drinking
- Talking to passengers
- Grooming
- Reading, including maps
- Using a navigation system
- Watching a video
- Adjusting a radio, CD player, or MP3 player

But, because text messaging requires visual, manual, and cognitive attention from the driver, it is by far the most alarming distraction." <a href="http://www.distraction.gov/content/get-the-facts/facts-and-statistics.html">http://www.distraction.gov/content/get-the-facts/facts-and-statistics.html</a>
According to the National Hwy Transportation Safety Administration, texting while driving makes the driver 23 times more likely to crash, it slows breaking reaction time by 18% and is equal to driving blind for 5 seconds or the length of a football field. So, the next time you go to answer that call or send a text while driving, ask yourself...is that call worth my life or the lives of those around me?

#### Resources:

TRAFFIC SAFETY FACTS

Research Note <a href="http://www.distraction.gov/download/research-pdf/2010FactSheet.pdf">http://www.distraction.gov/download/research-pdf/2010FactSheet.pdf</a>
DOT HS 811 650 September 2012

http://www.distraction.gov/content/get-the-facts/facts-and-statistics.html

http://www.textinganddrivingsafety.com/texting-and-driving-stats/

### **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

## Q: Is it illegal to cut through a parking lot to avoid a traffic signal?

A: Yes, ARS 28-651 A person shall not drive on or through any private property road to driveway to avoid obedience to traffic rules or traffic control device

## Q: What are the laws in Arizona concerning speed?

A: ARS 28-701 A person shall not drive a vehicle on a highway at a speed greater than reasonable and prudent under the circumstances, conditions and actual and potential hazards then existing. A person shall control the speed of a vehicle as necessary to avoid colliding with any object, person, vehicle or other conveyance on, entering or adjacent to the highway in compliance with legal requirements and the duty of all persons to exercise reasonable care for the protection of others.

### **Questions and Answers**

## Q: How many persons do I need to have in the vehicle to drive in a HOV lane?

A: ARS 28-737 A person shall not drive a vehicle carrying fewer than two persons, including the driver, in a high occupancy vehicle lane.

## Q: When making a left turn, can I turn into any lane I choose?

A: ARS 28-751 the driver of a vehicle intending to turn left shall approach the turn in the extreme left-hand lane lawfully available to traffic moving in the direction of travel of the vehicle. If practical the driver shall make the turn to the left lane immediately available for the driver's direction of traffic.

## Q: Did you Know?

A: ARS13-1805.A.3 A person commits shoplifting if they pay less than the purchase price of the goods by some trick or artifice such as altering, removing, substituting or otherwise disfiguring any label, price tag or marking.